



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3653

#10

7-15-23

Applicant: Grubbs et al.
Serial No.: 10/055,131
Filed: January 22, 2002
For: Acceleration Conveyor
Group No. 3653
Examiner: Nguyen
Attorney's Docket No. N8076
Customer No. 23456

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND
INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD**

To the Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following comments are submitted in response to the non-Final Office Action dated March 28, 2003. Reconsideration in view of this response is requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD

The undersigned attorney for Applicants conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Nguyen on March 28, 2003. Applicants' attorney presented an argument substantially identical to that set forth at pages 3-7 of the RESPONSE filed in this case on or about March 4, 2003, in which Applicants' attorney pointed out that the Wilbur et al. 5,048,674 patent cited by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest a "blowing system" as set forth in claim 16. The blowing system serves to carry the paper across the transition from the acceleration conveyor to the product conveyor. The element 17 which the Examiner referred to in Wilbur et al. is not a "blowing

system" as defined in claim 16, but instead is simply an ejector like the "ejector" element which is also found in claim 16.

The Examiner indicated that he agreed upon reconsideration that Wilbur et al. did not disclose a "blowing system", but that he would have to reconsider the effect of that fact on his previous rejection of the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider his rejection. It is submitted that all claims should be allowable for the reasons set forth in the previous response, and namely because none of the cited references show or suggest a "blowing system" as required by claim 16, and certainly none of the references suggest the combination of both a "blowing system" which aids in carrying the paper across the gap in combination with a "ejector" that will blow selected items through the gap.

Respectfully submitted,



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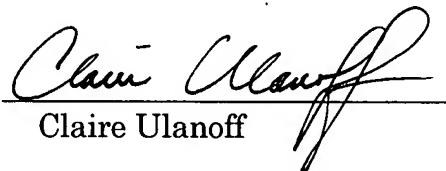
This attorney is located at our Nashville, Tennessee office and can be contacted directly at:

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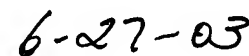


CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 27, 2003.



Claire Ulanoff



Date

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